

# SPNN NEWS

STATE POLICY NETWORK

Strategies for State Think Tanks – July / August 2009

## What Happens in Vegas is Exposed in Vegas

BY ANDY MATTHEWS

SPN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS that undertake government transparency efforts can expect blowback from vested interests. For example, board members might be pressured to resign from the organization or stop their contributions. The South Carolina Policy Council experienced blowback, as described by its president Ashley Landess in the Jan./Feb. 2009 SPN News, when it simply sought to get more legislative votes recorded.

Below is a brief recount of the blowback the Nevada Policy Research Institute experienced after probing a powerful Las Vegas public entity. A summary of the lessons the Institute learned follows. What was learned might assist your institute, whether the retaliation follows open-government efforts or general policy work.

### INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED

Last year, the Nevada Policy Research Institute launched an investigation into the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, a public entity that exists nominally to promote Southern Nevada tourism. The LVCVA receives hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars annually to accomplish this task while receiving almost no genuine oversight.

NPRI sent the Authority hundreds of public-records requests, gaining access to thousands of pages of LVCVA financial documents. The documents revealed a pattern of extravagant spending, lax accounting, shoddy oversight — and an alarmingly cozy relationship with the Authority's largest subcontractor, R&R Partners, a private advertising and public-affairs firm.

How cozy? The LVCVA provided the *literal* rubber stamp bearing its finance director's signature to R&R so R&R could approve expenses above \$500 without LVCVA review, in violation of the parties' contract, not to mention common sense.

### PUBLICIZING THE FINDINGS

To maximize impact, NPRI released its findings through The Las Vegas Review-Journal, the state's largest newspaper and one whose editor shares both NPRI's libertarian philosophy and its passion for open government. NPRI reasoned: An influential, hard news outlet could break the story and lend it mainstream credibility that might be lacking if it came directly from a center-right think tank.

The Review-Journal received access to the LVCVA documents and, after conducting its own interviews and



*Thousands of LVCVA financial documents, obtained through public records requests, were the foundation for NPRI's work. Displaying the catch, from left, are NPRI's Steven Miller, vice president for policy; Sharon J. Rossie, president; and Andy Matthews, vice president for communications.*

public-records reviews, published its first story on the subject Nov. 30. This was the first of six news and/or opinion articles The Review-Journal would publish within a one-month span during its first phase of coverage. On Dec. 3, NPRI posted its own full, in-depth report to its website, and issued a press release announcing the report. The final weeks of 2008 saw not only the aforementioned Review-Journal stories, but also coverage from all major Las Vegas television network affiliates, several talk-radio hosts and even the Orlando Sentinel in Florida.

### OBSTACLES TO SPREADING THE MESSAGE

Generating media interest in the story was easy, but a challenge arose

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# Linking Links and Online Marketing

BY NICOLE WILLIAMS

MANY THINK TANKS have launched new websites in the last six to nine months, with some institutes now overseeing 10 different sites. This move toward specialized websites is an excellent way to reach specific audiences, as well facilitate better search engine optimization through incoming and outgoing links.

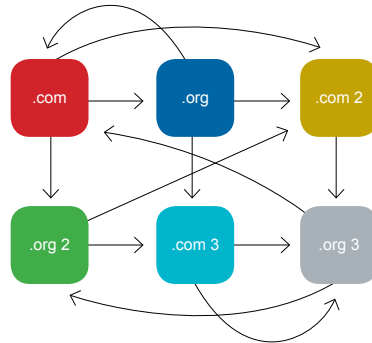
At this time, Google and others rank a page higher in a search result if there are numerous websites that link to it, as well as many links on that web page to outside resources. Google, the market leader, sees both incoming and outgoing links as an indication that a web page is serving as an important resource to potential online visitors. Therein lies the importance of interlinking your group's multiple websites: Your sites will rank higher in web searches.

If you own multiple sites and multiple domain names, it is simple to link to your other sites within individual articles. Likewise, it is easy to get incoming links, from sites controlled by allies, so search engines will view your work as an important resource.

To accomplish the above, employ the following basic linking strategies:

When information on your state fits well with their content, work with ballotpedia.org, sunshinereview.org or judgepedia.org to get your research referenced on their pages.


To increase the number of incoming links to your pages, freely link to resources on websites, especially friendly websites, owned by your organization or outside of your organization.



When trying to be in the top three search results for a set of key words that support your work, such as “budget crisis” for your fiscal policy endeavors, ensure that three to five outside sources link to your fiscal work. Also ensure that they use the targeted words “budget crisis” as the text that is linked.

If you are worried about driving people away from your website when linking to external sites, pardon my English, get over it. Just have the link open in a new browser window for the user who clicks on the external link.

Link only to references or materials within your websites, or on external sites, if they are a logical fit. Illogical links will ultimately drive readers, and likely Google, away.

Incoming and outgoing links are one simple way to increase the Google ranking of online content. With the move toward multiple websites, as well as by tapping into other important resources, it is simple to quickly move “up the charts” in a search rank. 



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## SPN NEWS STATE POLICY NETWORK

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SPN News reports on issues of importance to state-focused, market-oriented, non-profit public policy research organizations. Drawing from current updates and events from within the industry, the publication provides timely information on the most pressing issues facing public policy state think tank executives. State Policy Network publishes SPN News six times a year. Individual copies can be ordered from the State Policy Network offices at 703-243-1655. All images used in this issue are owned by their respective copyright holders. All rights reserved.

### MISSION STATEMENT

State Policy Network is the capacity building service organization for America's free market, state-focused think tank community. We advance a free society by providing leadership development, management training and networking opportunities for think tank professionals and by promoting strategic partnerships among market-oriented organizations.

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State Policy Network has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities.

# Don't Mess with Texas... or Kansas or South Carolina or Ohio ...

BY JAMES QUINTERO

FACED WITH FALLING revenues and sagging economies, it is easy to see how states were tempted into taking Washington's offer of "free" stimulus money; but as everyone knows: there is no such thing as a free lunch.

Stimulus funds, in many cases, came with strings attached which moved policy decisions from the state capitol to the nation's capitol. Washington's approach was simply not correct.

To help educate and engage lawmakers across the nation about the true impact of the stimulus, the Texas Public Policy Foundation began a multi-state initiative – collaborating with SPN member organizations in South Carolina, Ohio, Maine, New Jersey and Kansas – beginning in March 2009.

Using research from Dr. Arthur Laffer, entitled "The Economic Impact of Federal Spending on State Economic Performance," the Foundation and its allies found success in nearly every state.

By the end of the campaign:

Texas had rejected the \$555 million portion of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) stimulus funds.

South Carolina lawmakers were making a strong case against accepting any UI stimulus money, though several lawsuits were pending over that decision.

Ohioans were likely to accept the UI stimulus funds, but increased eligibility for the program was likely to be refused.

Efforts in New Jersey were still ongoing.

In Maine, the Maine Heritage Policy Center successfully used the group's research on its Fiscal Sanity Tour.

In Kansas, lawmakers were treated to a speaking engagement from Donna Arduin – from the renown Arduin, Laffer, & Moore Econometrics – and assured her that the state would reject a portion of the stimulus funds.

Political victories weren't the only things to come out of the multi-state effort. The Foundation and its sister organizations also took away some important lessons on the value of teamwork and leveraging resources to be more effective.

Below are five tips to help you get the most out of your next multi-state effort.

**Have a Clear Strategy in Mind.** Your goal should be to establish yourself as the leading voice and a respected authority on the issue. Find out what research can be produced internally, determine what events your organization can host to highlight the battle, and figure out who your allies are and know their strengths.

**Engage your Political Leadership.** Reporters are much more likely to cover and write about your issue when the governor or a large group of legislators are standing with you. Having an open line of communication with your allies in government will help them understand your value and help you understand what activities you can effectively pursue together.

**Speak, Write, Talk.** Our alliance, and the Foundation in particular, had considerable success framing the



The Hon. Talmadge Heflin, director of TPPF's Center for Fiscal Policy, announces the Foundation's stimulus findings to a group of state and local media. Joining him are more than a dozen state legislators, and representatives from Arduin, Laffer & Moore Econometrics.

debate through newspaper op-eds. Beyond that, consider focusing your attention on editorial board outreach and talk radio.

**Keep Your Donors Up-to-Date.** Current and prospective donors are eager to *do something* and/or find someone who will. Impress them by regularly showing them your work – and therefore their investment – and the impact it is having on the debate.

**Take Advantage of the Headlines.** Use the daily headlines in renewal letters, supporting e-mail follow-up pieces and other marketing materials. Remember to keep the information fresh and constant.

The above tips can help your organization and its partners make the most of your research and increase its impact. With as many crazy ideas as there are floating around Washington, D.C. and the state capitals, SPN members can greatly leverage their resources through teamwork. **SPN**



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# Today's Summer Fellow, Tomorrow's Center Director

THE 2009 SPN / IHS Charles G. Koch Summer Fellow program concludes August 14 following a final week of seminars in Washington, D.C. Three short years ago, Amber Gunn was part of the same program, undertaking various research projects at the Evergreen Freedom Foundation in Washington. Today, Gunn is the director of EFF's Economic Policy Center.

She is part of a growing cast of former SPN / IHS Koch Summer Fellows who, once college degree in hand, have been hired by their former Host Institute or another SPN member. Joining Gunn are: Justin Owen, J.D., Tennessee Center for Policy Research; Matthew Piccolo, Sutherland Institute; Hannah Mead, Mackinac Center; Benjamin Stafford, Foundation for Economic Education; and, most recently, Christina Pajak, Freedom Foundation of Minnesota.



*EFF Economic Policy Center director Amber Gunn, a former SPN / IHS Koch Summer Fellow, energizes 5,000 Tea Party-goers in Washington state.*

When Gunn's not scuba diving, skiing or traveling, she serves as a voting member on the American Legislative Exchange Council's Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force. She's often consulted by the media and legislative staff for policy analysis. "As a Summer Fellow, Amber quickly displayed the ability to master complex issues and offer plain-language market solutions to them," enthuses EFF CEO Lynn

Harsh. "We offered her a full-time position midway through the summer program."

Toward year's end, preparations will begin anew for the 2010 Koch Summer Fellow program. SPN and the Institute for Humane Studies will again offer SPN members the opportunity to nominate, host and help train tomorrow's leaders for liberty. [SPN](#)

## SPN & ALEC: A Model Relationship

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, SPN president Tracie Sharp and Evergreen Freedom Foundation's then-president Bob Williams talked about getting SPN members more involved in the American Legislative Exchange Council. The purpose: to help develop model legislation.

SPN secured funding for some of its members to join ALEC; Sharp and Williams encouraged others to join and have their staff participate in ALEC's various committees. The efforts have paid off: In 2009, 22 state-focused think tanks are having a major impact. Their staff have been at the table with state legislators and other private sector members to draft model legislation. Among those at

the table, one of Williams' colleagues, Amber Gunn, who is featured in the above article.

For her outstanding work, in July ALEC bestowed upon Sharp its 2009 Private Sector Member of the Year Award. Sharp asserts, "This special acknowledgement belongs to those who have put in dedicated time and energy through ALEC." Williams adds, "This is a well-deserved award. Not only have SPN members assisted legislators in drafting model legislation, they've been key in killing some proposals by 'rent-seeking' special interests."

SPN members are encouraged to join ALEC. For more information, contact: Chaz J. Cirame, director of Corporate

& Non-Profit Relations: 202-466-3800 or [ccirame@alec.org](mailto:ccirame@alec.org). [SPN](#)



*At its Annual Meeting in July, the American Legislative Exchange Council presented SPN president Tracie Sharp with its 2009 Private Sector Member of the Year Award. Sharp, second from right, accepts the Award along with the other recipients. From left: Pat Thomas, corporate vice president, UPS; Meredith Melvin Weaver, director, external affairs, Verizon Wireless; and Toby Spangler, Altria Client Services, regional director of state government affairs.*

# Book Clubs Foster Lasting Change

BY ERIC D. DIXON

TIMOTHY LEE, SHOW-ME Institute's first editor, told me he was motivated to start the SMI-sponsored book club because, "State-based think tanks spend the bulk of their time talking about the nuts and bolts of public policy as it relates to current legislative debates. That's important, but I also saw a need for a program that would help young people understand the ideas of liberty from a more philosophical perspective."

Lee is right. Today's policy success can be easily undermined tomorrow, but one way to foster lasting change is to spread knowledge about the fundamental and philosophical arguments for freedom.

Since 2006, the Institute has sponsored a biweekly book club for college students who are interested in exploring a broad spectrum of the ideas of liberty. Although it started out small, SMI now regularly hosts groups of 14 or 15, with 17 at one recent Wednesday night get-together.

Participants are not only absorbing the ideas of freedom, they're also passing them on to friends who aren't club members – and these

young activists will likely retain a lifelong passion for liberty. The club is also a pool of budding talent: Show-Me has hired two members as research assistants and another as an intern.

One reason for the club's success: SMI provides a place for active, ongoing inquiry and discussion, targeting an age group that's hungry for new ideas. (That, and the free burritos at each meeting.) Although we attracted initial participants by speaking at campus clubs, the biggest source of growth has been an open-invitation policy, as existing members bring their friends.

The club requires a relatively modest budget commitment – subsidizing the books and food provides a marginal incentive for increased participation – and the time of at least one staff member who has a good grasp of the ideas of liberty and is eager to learn more.

There's a vast, rich library of freedom-oriented works that most students



Some of the Show-Me Institute's book club participants pause to pose after a recent meeting.

won't experience in the classroom: from Frederic Bastiat to F.A. Hayek, John Stuart Mill to Thomas Sowell. The list is long — the club has read 45 books so far, with no end in sight. Visit [tinyurl.com/cd5zwa](http://tinyurl.com/cd5zwa) to review the books read to date.

Book clubs are a way to spread good ideas that aren't explicitly tied to any particular ongoing policy debate, but that help shape people's fundamental notions about whether and why freedom is valuable in the first place. Ultimately, those cultural assumptions determine whether practical policy success will last over time. **SPN**



Eric D. Dixon is the editor with the Show-Me Institute in Missouri. Write him at [eric.dixon@showmeinstitute.org](mailto:eric.dixon@showmeinstitute.org).

## SPN BOOK TIP



### Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die Chip Heath & Dan Heath

Montana Policy Institute president Carl Graham places *Made to Stick* high on his recommended reading list. He, along with numerous think tank peers, received the book courtesy of Joel Bomgar, a Mississippi Center for Public Policy board member. Graham notes, "This book offers a time-tested, six-point checklist for creating messages that people will remember – simplicity, unexpectedness, concreteness, credibility, emotional, and stories. The authors include good ideas, reinforced through good examples, for how to condense ideas into memorable messages. The principles are as applicable to an institute's commentaries and reports as they are to short-message media formats such as Twitter and YouTube. *Made to Stick* is not the be all, end all. Finding the right words and the right channels to communicate your message takes thought. That said, the book has helped MPI develop 'sticky messages' to present, if not explain, complex ideas."

# Welcome New SPN Members!

SPN has grown steadily since the turn of the year with the addition of two state-focused think tanks and 11 associate members – and 2009 is far from over. You can expect to read about the SPN family growing in the months ahead. Take a moment to learn about these 13 organizations and perhaps send them a note of welcome.

## COLORADO

Centennial Institute  
John Andrews, Director  
303-963-3424  
centennialccu.org

Limited Government Forum  
Sean W. Page, Vice President  
719-576-9055  
limitedgovforum.org

## DELAWARE

Intercollegiate Studies Institute Inc.  
T. Kenneth Crib, President  
302-652-4600  
isi.org

## GEORGIA

Advocates for Self-Government  
Sharon Harris, President  
770-386-8372  
theadvocates.org

## HAWAII

Small Business Hawaii  
Samuel L. Slom, President  
808-586-8424  
smallbusinesshawaii.com

## IDAHO

Idaho Freedom Foundation  
Wayne Hoffman, Executive Director  
208-921-6749  
idahofreedom.net

## MINNESOTA

Intellectual Takeout  
Dwight Tostenson, CEO  
507-246-4028  
intellectualtakeout.org

## NEW JERSEY

Just Facts  
James D. Agresti, President  
973-539-5280, ext. 7  
justfacts.com

## NEW YORK

Foundation for Economic Education  
Lee Currie, Executive Director  
914-591-7230  
fee.org

## TEXAS

Texas Conservative Coalition  
Research Institute  
John Colyandro, Executive Director  
512-474-6042  
txccri.org

## VIRGINIA

Bill of Rights Institute  
Victoria Hughes, President and  
Founder  
703-894-1776  
billofrightsinstitute.org

Citizens in Charge Foundation  
Amanda Hydro, Executive Director  
703-492-1776  
citizensincharge.org

## WISCONSIN

MacIver Institute for Public Policy  
Brett Healy, President  
262-617-2716  
maciverinstitute.com



## CONGRATULATIONS TO

# The Maine Heritage Policy Center

for winning the SPNovation Award for its development program

## 21st Maine

21st Maine is an innovative development effort designed to provide a practical answer for supporters when they ask, "What else can I do to help?" 21st Maine members agree to an \$8 monthly pledge and to undertake a monthly action, such as writing their state legislator, which takes eight minutes or less to complete.

As an SPNovation winner, MHPC receives \$500 plus travel costs for a staff member to attend the 2009 SPN Annual Meeting and discuss the 21st Maine on a panel about innovation.

**Reminder:** Nominations for the next round of SPNovation Awards are due by Saturday, August 15. Visit [www.spn.org/about/spnovation-awards](http://www.spn.org/about/spnovation-awards) for details.

## ATTENTION FREEMARKETEERS!



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ask the EXPERTS

Tune in!  
Tuesday, August 11  
12:00 p.m. EST

"American Idol:  
Updating your Performance Review System."

featuring

Michael G. Smith  
Executive Recruiter, Smith Recruiting





# Weed Out the Big-Government Think Tank in Your Backyard

BY JOHN BARNES

I COULD TELL the reporter was amused. His story on tax increases referred to Washington Policy Center and a new Seattle group, the Washington State Budget & Policy Center. He seemed resigned to the fact that the two names would always be confused.

The humor in our counterpart's name choice aside, this story highlights a growing challenge for SPN groups: the rise of so-called credible state think tanks promoting bigger government. I say credible not because I agree with their positions, but because policymakers and the media take them seriously and they are well-funded. These are not crazy netroots or ACORN activists.

The WSB&PC is part of the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, coordinated by the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. There are SFAI-affiliated groups in 31 states with seven more in planning stages.

Here's how Washington Policy Center recently engaged WSB&PC. Washington, like most states, has budget troubles because of overspending and a bad economy. In an attempt to build momentum for tax increases, the WSB&PC released a letter signed by more than 20 local "economists and public policy experts" (most of whom are on the state payroll) telling lawmakers that budget cuts would devastate the economy. The letter received widespread media attention and many lawmakers used it to call for tax increases. They said economists agree that now is the time for tax increases.

The WSB&PC cleverly released this letter with the title "Economists Urge Lawmakers to Consider All Options in Addressing State Deficit," giving the impression that all the letter signers were in fact economists. However, the text of the release said "over 20 leading economists *and public policy experts* sent a joint letter..." (emphasis added). The media largely ignored the qualifier in the text and wrote headlines and stories telling their readers that all the letter signers were economists.

Like you, Washington Policy Center takes little at face value. So we did a bit of digging. It turned out nearly half of the initial signers were not economists. We posted this information on our blog and circulated it amongst media. We pointed out the sloppy and misleading work of our left-wing counterparts and raised doubts about the letter in the public debate.

We also responded with a letter of our own, warning lawmakers that tax increases would hurt the economy; 32 local and national economists signed it. Every signer of our letter was a credentialed economist. Our goal was twofold: challenge the illusion of consensus among economists that WSB&PC attempted to create, and counter the momentum for tax increases. We released the letter to media and lawmakers, then took the idea one step further and purchased full-page advertisements in the state capitol newspaper and another large daily. Amusing headlines ensued: "dueling economists," "our economists can beat up your economists," and so on. Ultimately the legislature passed a budget without raising taxes.

Odds are there is a group like the WSB&PC operating in your state.



*There are State Fiscal Analysis Initiative-affiliated groups in 31 states with seven more in planning stages.*

WPC encourages our fellow think tanks to do the following:

Visit the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative website ([statefiscal.org](http://statefiscal.org)) to find out if one of these astroturf think tanks operates in your state.

If it does, ensure that key staff members, academic advisors, adjunct analysts and institute supporters are familiar with the organization.

If the group produces poor quality policy work or false and misleading public relations to push for bigger government and higher taxes in your state, prepare a counter-analysis, which explains the group's research deficits to the media.

If a group like the WSB&PC operates in your state, it is working hard to gain media credibility and access to lawmakers with the appearance of using fact-based research. Publicly scrutinize and engage them, as Washington Policy Center does. Remember they are working just as hard as you reaching out to media. Learn who else is paying attention to them, and reach out accordingly. In the end, don't wear kid gloves when the other side is using boxing gloves. **SPN**



John Barnes is the communications director at Washington Policy Center. Write him at [jbarnes@washingtonpolicy.org](mailto:jbarnes@washingtonpolicy.org).

quickly: getting reporters to cover the story on its own merit.

The chief reason for this is Las Vegas' political culture. In many ways, Southern Nevada politicians and policymakers still operate within the paradigms that dominated during the mob-influence years beginning in the 1950s. The LVCVA's managers, and R&R's, were therefore beyond simply annoyed upon being exposed — they were downright offended that anyone had the *chutzpah* to scrutinize them in the first place. Used to politicians ignoring or even encouraging dubious behavior, the LVCVA's managers considered it out of bounds for anyone to question them.

The deference many reporters still pay the Old Guard was reflected in their complacency about LVCVA and R&R efforts to make the story about NPRI. Their strategy: label NPRI as right-wing zealots with a sinister agenda, and pawns for the Las Vegas Sands Corp., which operates a private convention center that competes with the LVCVA's public convention center. The Las Vegas Sands' then-president sits on NPRI's board.

Often, the press took the bait. Thus, after the initial wave, much of the coverage focused not only on the LVCVA, but also on NPRI's supposedly questionable motives.

#### THREATS AND INTIMIDATION

The challenges went beyond media messaging. After the story broke, the investigation's targets opened a new battlefield, aimed at intimidating NPRI into halting the LVCVA project. Several NPRI board members were approached with thinly veiled, retaliatory threats aimed at their business interests over their associations with NPRI. Ultimately,

two NPRI board members resigned, citing an overload of commitments.

Additionally, NPRI's offices were visited multiple times by private investigators claiming they'd been hired to represent "the other side" and demanding access to NPRI's financial records. To ensure security, NPRI's data back-up system was enhanced and an office alarm system was installed.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

Ultimately, the investigation was successful in two key respects. First, it forced the LVCVA to undertake multiple reforms as to how its finances are overseen. Second, it raised public awareness that the Authority's operations require greater scrutiny. Future LVCVA reform efforts, led by NPRI or others, now have a solid foundation upon which to build.

Additionally, NPRI learned important lessons that SPN organizations can apply to transparency projects.

**Expect your targets to make the story about you.** Develop a counterstrategy quickly. Better yet, have one in place before the story even becomes public. If you're unprepared, you risk having your message drowned; reporters will demand to know who's *really* behind your project.

NPRI pressed three key points in combating this effort. First, NPRI's report relied *entirely on the LVCVA's own documents*, provided in response to requests under public-records law. This fact undermined attempts to question the report's veracity.


Second, NPRI, unlike the LVCVA, is funded privately and thus is not (and should not be) subject to the same scrutiny as public, taxpayer-funded entities.

Finally, attempts to shift the focus to NPRI, rather than rebut *any* of its findings, amounted to a *de facto* admission of the legitimacy of NPRI's claims.

**Keep your board informed.** If you are based in a small state like Nevada, your board members likely will be approached, once the story goes public, by the press and/or your investigation's targets. NPRI kept its board members from being blindsided by informing them of relevant developments.

Nothing compels board members to discuss the project with the press or anyone else. These decisions can be made on an individual basis. But telling them what's happening, and working with them on how to respond to inquiries if they so choose, will make their lives — and yours — easier.

**Talk to other SPN organizations.** Whatever project you're tackling, one of your sister think tanks likely has undertaken something similar, or at least faced challenges similar to yours. NPRI benefited greatly from, and is grateful for, the advice and direction it received from other SPN members.

Finally, the best lesson of all: Organizations such as NPRI and other SPN members do make a significant difference in the fight for more accountable government. The odds of success may seem long at times and, when it happens, the resistance can be discouraging. Ultimately, perseverance pays off: Dedication to a just cause is rewarded. 



Andy Matthews is vice president for communications with the Nevada Policy Research Institute. Write him at [am@npri.org](mailto:am@npri.org).





The Wall Street Journal's Stephen Moore addresses an API luncheon.



ABC 20/20 co-host John Stossel joined more than 400 Goldwater guests at a May luncheon where he explained the dangers of government bailouts and trumpeted the free market.

**Arkansas Policy Foundation.** Dr. Poole told undergraduate Hendrix College students in April that market discipline should be applied, and large banks should “shrink if they are inefficient.” “Centrally-planned economies fail because they prop up inefficient enterprises to the exclusion of new firms serving consumers,” he said. Poole, whose remarks were reported by the Associated Press, said the monetary base has expanded by more than 100 percent since September, the largest expansion in the time series, which dates to 1918. Foundation executive director Greg Kaza participated in a March 26 “Deficits, Debt and Looming Disaster” forum sponsored by the St. Louis Fed. [arkansaspolicyfoundation.org](http://arkansaspolicyfoundation.org)

## ALABAMA



Several proposals developed by **Alabama Policy Institute** to fight public corruption and increase transparency in state government were introduced during the 2009 Alabama legislative session. API vice president Michael Ciamarra wrote ethics reform bills and a state expenditures checkbook transparency bill, which passed on the last day of the session. This major legislative accomplishment will benefit citizens of Alabama by lawfully requiring the creation of an online, searchable database of all state expenditures, including contracts and grants. On May 15, API hosted a luncheon in Mobile featuring The Wall Street Journal's Stephen Moore.

[alabamapolicy.org](http://alabamapolicy.org)

## ALASKA



The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment, approved in April by the Arctic Council Ministers, calls for member states to enhance Arctic marine safety, protect people and the Arctic environment and build Arctic marine infrastructure. The four-year project, led by

Canada, Finland and the United States, involved more than 200 experts and 13 major workshops. “It was a massive effort to provide a snapshot of Arctic marine use today and the plausible future of Arctic marine transport,” said Ben



Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment

Ellis, co-editor of the AMSA 2009 Report and managing director of the **Institute of the North**, “but the real work is yet to be done. The recommendations need to be implemented.” Through the assessment, the Council indicated member states will cooperatively support efforts at the IMO to strengthen, harmonize and regularly update international standards for vessels operating in the Arctic. [institutenorth.org](http://institutenorth.org)

## ARIZONA



Politicians spend millions in taxpayer dollars putting their names and faces on advertisements that they pass off as public service

announcements. In “Shameless Self-Promotion: How Politicians Use Your Money to Get Re-Elected,” Shawna L.M. Bolick exposes this wasteful practice for what it is: taxpayer-funded backdoor electioneering. The **Goldwater Institute** scored a legal victory when a judge ruled the City of Tempe was wrong to revoke a couple's business permit because of the “perception” that it would bring crime to the neighborhood. A few weeks later, Tempe asked for a do-over, saying it wasn't prepared the first time. Award-winning journalist Mark Flatten joined the Goldwater Institute to expose government corruption and waste. An investigative reporter for almost 30 years, Flatten has published numerous stories that have exposed bad government policy and led to changes in law. [goldwaterinstitute.org](http://goldwaterinstitute.org)

## ARKANSAS

Former St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank president William Poole criticized federal bailouts of banks and forecast long-term inflation during forums co-sponsored by the

## CALIFORNIA



The **Pacific Research Institute** released its latest film, “Not As Good As You Think: The Myth of the Middle Class School,” featuring Koret senior fellow and PRI education studies senior director Lance T. Izumi. PRI president and CEO Sally C. Pipes and director of Health Care Studies John R. Graham have been regularly discussing President Obama's health care proposals with news media. PRI also released the 14th edition of its Index of Leading Environmental Indicators by Steve Hayward. [pacificresearch.org](http://pacificresearch.org)

## COLORADO



The 7th Annual Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Party became a two-day event. On Fri., June 19 an



Independence Institute president Jon Caldara (left) with Joseph Wurzelbacher, a.k.a. Joe the Plumber at Il's June 20 ATF Party.

all-star panel of civil libertarians gathered for ATF/Freedom Underground, which included lunch, an afternoon panel and dinner, followed by cocktails and cigars. Andrew Breitbart was the dinner speaker. On Sat., June 20, we gathered again to drink, smoke and shoot, celebrating what freedoms we still have left with guest speaker Joseph "Joe the Plumber" Wurzelbacher. This year's ATF Party broke all previous records, selling out a week in advance. One week later the Institute welcomed Daniel Hannan, writer, journalist and Conservative MEP for South East England since 1999, as featured speaker at a Denver event. Hannan recently rose to fame in the U.S. after his fiery speech (available on YouTube) addressing Gordon Brown as "the devalued Prime Minister of a devalued government." [i2i.org](http://i2i.org)

## CONNECTICUT



The **Yankee Institute** recently published six studies in 10 weeks. "How Can You Soak the Rich When They're Already Sopping Wet?" reveals the top six percent of taxpayers provide 50 percent of state income tax receipts. "Connecticut

Thanks You for Smoking" documents how Connecticut spent just \$23 million of its \$1.3 billion in Tobacco Settlement money on anti-tobacco efforts. "A Look at Connecticut's Taxpayer Funded Elections" shows the \$17 million effort is an Incumbent Protection Act. "How to Lower Property Taxes with Citizen Audit Committees" is a how-to manual for municipal officials and activists. "A Skeptical View of the Stimulus" discusses how only a third of Connecticut's \$3.5 billion in stimulus money goes to stimulating things. To show U.S. House Speaker Pelosi it can be done, the Yankee Institute published online every line item of personal office expenditures for its five congressional members, from payroll and franked mail to bottled water. [yankeeinstitute.org](http://yankeeinstitute.org)

## DELAWARE



On July 7, exactly 126 days after attending the Maine Heritage Policy Center / Empire Center for New York State Policy government transparency seminar in Manchester, N.H., the **Caesar Rodney Institute** combined its major launch into the public policy arena, a month ahead of its original

target date, in concert with its new DelawareSpends.com website going live. Due to a combinations of factors – major staff reductions at the only statewide newspaper, shutdowns of Philadelphia Regional PBS TV operations in Delaware, no state transparency web site and the Institute's effective internet and radio advertising campaign – CRI experienced huge web traffic increases. DelawareSpends is now the transparency go-to source in The First State!

[caesarrodneymag.org](http://caesarrodneymag.org)

## FLORIDA

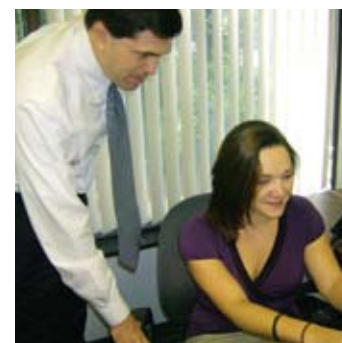


Hosting the Beacon Hill Institute's Paul Bachman for legislative meetings and policy presentations springboarded **James Madison Institute** into more work on energy and climate change. The Heartland Institute's James Taylor wrote an analysis of President Obama's climate / energy agenda in JMI's latest The Journal, as well as a forthcoming white paper regarding oil drilling and energy policy. The Institute also provided comment on environmental issues, from the Clean Water Restoration Act for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, to a stimulus-funded "Turtle Tunnel" for a statewide news service. The summer features a big push on JMI's Civics Education Initiative, with judging at Florida's State History Fair, panels at Girls' State and Boys' State, a Constitution Day event and current Journal articles on civics literacy and economic literacy, including one by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. [jamesmadison.org](http://jamesmadison.org)

## GEORGIA



The Georgia Climate Change Education Project, which the **Georgia Public Policy Foundation** launched earlier this year, is gaining momentum, bringing such noted speakers as Chris Horner and Lord Christopher Monckton to the state, and highlighting the lack of consensus and questionable data regarding global warming policy. State-level awareness is vital to



GPPF exec. vice president Kelly McCutchen oversees SPN / IHS Summer Fellow Danielle Hudson's research project.

combating frightening federal missteps. The summer has been intense for the Foundation, including the celebration of Milton Friedman's birthday, the American Legislative Exchange Council convention in town and the company of three high-caliber SPN / IHS Charles G. Koch summer fellows. Danielle Hudson, Georgia State; Daniel Groce, Mercer University; and Fred Barnet, Univ. of Georgia, exemplify the great strides this program is taking. The Summer Fellows are writing excellent op-eds, letters to the editor, updates to Foundation research and more. [gppf.org](http://gppf.org)

## HAWAII

The **Grassroot Institute of Hawaii** recently unveiled a redesigned



GRIH president Jamie Story is interviewed about Grassroot's "Trim the Fat from the Department of Education" Contest.

website and a new e-newsletter, "Fresh Cut," both of which have received rave reviews. In June, the Institute co-sponsored the first



Pila Sunderland

Department of Education "Trim the Fat" contest. Hawaii residents, many of them DOE employees,

submitted more than 100 new and innovative ideas for cutting DOE costs. The contest, which offered thousands of dollars in prizes and was covered on all major local TV news stations, also generated a number of anonymous tips to investigate. The Institute will celebrate Milton Friedman's birthday July 31 with a luncheon featuring the Goldwater Institute's Clint Bolick as the keynote speaker. Pila Sunderland, who brings a wealth of private-sector experience, joins GRIH as advancement director. [grassrootinstitute.org](http://grassrootinstitute.org)

## IDAHO



Three Idaho daily newspapers now run commentaries from the **Idaho Freedom Foundation** on a weekly basis, enabling IFF to engage more Idahoans on issues including education reform,

transparency in government, tax policy and private property rights. IFF used the columns to criticize county officials who had refused to disclose \$162,000 in expenses that should have been made public. Additionally, IFF admonished a school district which decided to make the process of acquiring public records difficult. The Foundation's defense of private property rights compelled Idahoans to turn out for a city council meeting where policymakers were contemplating a ban on smoking on private property. The turnout of smoking ban opponents convinced the city council to reject the anti-private property measure, which had previously passed 3-2. Finally, IFF is testing a new transparency in government website, which it expects to launch this summer. [idahofreedom.net](http://idahofreedom.net)

## ILLINOIS



This summer, the **Illinois Policy Institute** released two major education studies highlighting the achievements of charter schools. The studies found, Illinois inner-city charter school graduation rates dwarf



In June, P.J. O'Rourke spoke on behalf of the Illinois Policy Institute, Heartland Institute, Sam Adams Alliance and America's Future Foundation.

those of Chicago Public Schools, and charters also perform impressively in the rest of the state. The Institute continues to work for responsible solutions to Illinois's budget mess, which involves a multi-billion dollar deficit fueled by out-of-control spending. The Institute's "Budget Solutions 2010" was endorsed by the Chicago Tribune and gained attention across the state. The Institute's Liberty Speakers Series continues to gain popularity: In June, more than 160 guests attended "An Evening with P.J. O'Rourke," co-hosted with the Heartland institute, the Sam Adams Alliance and America's Future Foundation. The Liberty Leaders program also continues to grow, with volunteers across the state joining to work for government transparency and more. [illinoispolicyinstitute.org](http://illinoispolicyinstitute.org)

## INDIANA



**Indiana Policy Review Foundation** adjunct scholar Dr. Eric Schansberg, working with the Laffer Group and the Texas Public Policy Foundation, was the project manager of the Foundation's effort to educate Hoosiers on the advantages of patient-centered health care systems. The project was to include a statewide media tour and a series of articles distributed to the 25 daily newspapers subscribing to the Foundation's Indiana Writers Group. Ongoing Foundation projects include: an assessment, with the help of the American Family Business Institute, of how many Indiana jobs will be lost if the inheritance tax is reinstated; the aggressive distribution of a critique by the Cato Institute's



Dr. Eric Schansberg

Randal O'Toole of a proposed regional "high-speed" rail system endorsed by Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels; and a special issue of the quarterly journal, edited by Dr. Sam Staley, about market-based municipal policy. [inpolicy.org](http://inpolicy.org)

## IOWA



**Public Interest Institute** recently published two new policy studies. "Iowa's State Budget: Spending Our Way to a Crisis Again," by research vice president Amy K. Frantz, details Iowa's spending spree under Gov. Chet Culver and the Iowa Legislature. The study makes recommendations, such as implementing an expenditure limit, to control spending and prevent another budget crisis in the future. Research analyst John Hendrickson's "A Republic If You Can Keep It: Failing to Teach First Principles," demonstrates that America is facing a crisis in civic education, with students receiving college diplomas without adequate knowledge of U.S. history, government and our fundamental institutions. The study surveys the core curriculum of nine private and public colleges and universities in Iowa and recommends solutions to improve civic education. [limitedgovernment.org](http://limitedgovernment.org)

## KANSAS



**Flint Hills Center for Public Policy** hired an investigative reporter, Paul Soutar, who discovered that Kansas schools have \$1.36 billion in unencumbered cash balances. Schools across Kansas ended FY 2008 with the money stashed away in 27 different funds. Most of the money is in restricted funds that have accumulated from years of



taking in more money than was needed. Some legislators cited the report as partial justification for a 2.75 percent cut in state funding. Gretchen Colón, vice president of advancement and marketing, was hired to lead fundraising and implement new marketing strategies. The Center also hired Grace Harris to organize and manage government transparency projects and data collection and analysis. [flinthills.org](http://flinthills.org)

## KENTUCKY

BLUEGRASS  
INSTITUTE  
FOR PUBLIC POLICY  
SOLUTIONS

Samantha Raymer joined the **Bluegrass Institute** in June. A second year law student at the University of Kentucky College of Law, with an economics and political science degree, Raymer previously clerked at a department for public advocacy. She will be looking for pork and questionable items in the latest state budget, and trying to see how budget allocations support any commitments to improved performance. Gov. Steve Beshear said he would only raise taxes as a last resort. Instead, he's raised taxes and is looking for more. The project Raymer is aiding is intended to help identify opportunities to reduce costs that Gov. Beshear and the legislators missed. The findings will be contributed to BIPPS' freedomwiki at [FreedomKentucky.org](http://FreedomKentucky.org). [bipps.org](http://bipps.org)

## LOUISIANA



In July the **Pelican Institute** hosted a luncheon featuring Manhattan Institute scholar Regina Herzlinger, Ph.D. An audience of more than 100 business leaders, policymakers,



The Pelican Institute's Kevin Kane, left, and CAGW's Tom Schatz on the State Capitol steps with PigFoot.

grassroots activists and media heard Herzlinger address health care reform. The Institute also released "Why Louisiana Should Not Build High-Speed Rail," a study written by Cato Institute scholar Randal O'Toole. On June 1, the Pelican Institute made news when president Kevin Kane moderated a panel featuring Newt Gingrich and Senator David Vitter. Over 200 people enjoyed a lively discussion about conservatism's future. The Institute published the first Louisiana Pork Report, prepared in association with Citizens Against Government Waste, and held a press conference for it on the State Capitol steps in Baton Rouge. Tea Party groups have requested thousands of copies of the report for their events.

[pelicaninstitute.org](http://pelicaninstitute.org)

## MAINE



The **Maine Heritage Policy Center** has been busy addressing health care reform, with a particular focus on Maine's experience with the same ideas being debated in Washington, D.C. today. Guaranteed Issue and Community Rating wrecked a thriving individual market, leaving just one primary carrier and the nation's second-highest health insurance costs. In a similar way, the failed Dirigo experiment is a test-case for a "Public Option," that has not met three percent of its goal after a five-year test,

but will benefit from a brand new tax on health claims. The "Crisis to Cure" theme is being used for a series of presentations and new research available at [www.MainePolicy.org](http://www.MainePolicy.org). After winning a fight to censor the Center's transparency site, the same Maine Legislature recognized [www.MaineOpenGov.org](http://www.MaineOpenGov.org) as a valuable service to Pine Tree State residents. Contact communications director Martin Sheehan with questions, [msheehan@mainepolicy.org](mailto:msheehan@mainepolicy.org).

## MARYLAND

The **Free State Foundation's** Len Lazarick took an in-depth look at Gov. Martin O'Malley's performance-measurement program known as "StateStat," which had won widespread national recognition. Lazarick found that the elaborate data-based process, as a tool for effective and efficient government, lived only partially up to its hype. Because of too much indecipherable detail and an utter lack of comprehensible analysis, StateStat doesn't even come close to delivering on its promise of providing "open, transparent, and timely information and data on state government agencies." Lazarick's report was picked up by in-state blogs and newspapers, and the Baltimore Sun ran his op-ed that highlighted StateStat's deficiencies.

[freestatefoundation.org](http://freestatefoundation.org)



The Maryland Public Policy Institute

Since January, the **Maryland Public Policy Institute's** ambitious new marketing campaign has placed more than 20 op-eds. In addition, the Institute has been cited in prominent state and national newspapers including

the Baltimore Sun, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and Washington Times, reaching a combined circulation of 4.1 million readers. Moreover, the release of the beta version of the first state Tax Estimator, which is the first online tool to calculate how much residents pay in sales tax, property tax, as well as other direct and indirect taxes by county, has raised the Institute's profile among policymakers, donors and the general public. [mdpolicy.org](http://mdpolicy.org)

## MASSACHUSETTS



The **Pioneer Institute** began the summer months by issuing a challenge to Beacon Hill with Countdown to Fiscal Sanity, a series of 10 emails that culminated in a new policy brief, calling for \$1.689 billion in recommended savings in order for Massachusetts to meet the challenges of the FY 2010 budget. Next up for Pioneer, the annual Better Government Competition Awards Dinner. With Democratic health care legislation pending, the Competition solicited ideas from across the country to seek ways to reduce health care costs and highlight private sector alternatives. The keynote speaker for this year's Sept. 16 Awards Dinner will be Dr. Mark McClellan, director of the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution, and former administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. [pioneerinstitute.org](http://pioneerinstitute.org)

## MICHIGAN



Continued scrutiny of the Michigan Film Initiative led to **Mackinac Center** scholars testifying in April before the Michigan Senate Finance

Committee. Investigative reporter Kathy Hoekstra and senior legal analyst Patrick Wright testified that the program was costly and unfair, and that the Michigan Film Office violated the law by releasing an incomplete financial report – a point later confirmed by the Michigan Attorney General. The Show Michigan the Money transparency juggernaut, headed by Ken Braun, continued to rack up successes as school districts, legislators and municipalities agreed to post spending details online. The Mackinac Center hired three new first-rate employees: Michael Van Beek, a former school teacher and administrator, is the new director of education policy; Hannah Mead, a former two-time Center intern, is an associate editor; and Christopher Deming will lead Students for a Free Economy as director of campus leadership. [mackinac.org](http://mackinac.org)

## MINNESOTA



Any recitation of recent highlights starts with Charles Krauthammer's brilliant keynote presentation at the **Center of American Experiment's** 2009 Annual Dinner. The Center has hosted a remarkable roster of national and world leaders at these spring events, but rarely has a speech been as well-received as Dr. Krauthammer's review of the first several months of the Obama administration. As for first-rate autumn events, Steve Forbes will keynote American Experiment's 2009 Fall Briefing. Other public programs have included a Luncheon Forum with political scientists Terry Moe and John Chubb discussing their seminal new book, *Liberating Learning: Technology, Politics,*

and the Future of American Education. CAE publications have included columns by policy fellow Peter Nelson on state energy policy and Obamacare, and a column by founder and president Mitch Pearlstein on Gov. Tim Pawlenty's decision to balance Minnesota's budget by unallotting \$2.7 billion. [americanexperiment.org](http://americanexperiment.org)



The **Freedom Foundation of Minnesota** is committed to training the state's next generation of conservative leaders. Students and recent graduates are being actively recruited to assist in all aspects of Foundation operations. On June 1, four outstanding leaders joined as research assistants. Evan Paskach is a junior studying political science at the University of Minnesota; Carrie Zimmerman, a junior at St. Olaf College; Jeremy Kienitz, a returning student at Metropolitan State University; and Aaron Ackerman, a recent graduate of Middlebury College. Each of these young men and women work on current research projects: tracking Minnesota property taxes and how they relate to increases in city spending; investigational research on how a new law allows some to bypass the lowest bid for city contracts; and developing FFM's new local government transparency website.

[freedomfoundationofminnesota.com](http://freedomfoundationofminnesota.com)

## MISSOURI



The **Show-Me Institute** recently posted a video of a lecture by and interview with Dr. Caroline Hoxby,

one of the nation's foremost experts on charter school performance. Hoxby, the Scott and Donya Bommer Professor of Economics at Stanford University, spoke about "The Promise and Performance of Charter Schools" during an event cosponsored by SMI and Saint Louis University's John Cook School of Business. Hoxby is also a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution and director of the Economics of Education Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. In the video, available at [www.ShowMeInstitute.org](http://www.ShowMeInstitute.org), Hoxby explains charter school benefits, outlines the challenges they face, points out the reasons for success in many charters and more. In addition to an ambitious slate of forthcoming studies, the Institute will again celebrate Milton Friedman's legacy of liberty in July, with an address by renowned school choice advocate Kevin Chavous.

## MONTANA



**Montana Policy Institute** got the summer off to a sizzling start by exposing one city's practice of allowing senior employees to take local lunches on the taxpayer's dime and refusing to put a credit card policy in place. The story was picked up around the state with several local newspapers and TV stations deciding to run their own investigations. News was also made with stories about traffic fines and tax revenues, and got off to a great start with MPI's new investigative reporting arm. A one-day health care forum in August concentrated on market approaches, and also tried to bring the natural foods and

alternative medicine community into the debate. (They're afraid of government run health care, too.) Find out how it went in the next newsletter! [montanapolicy.org](http://montanapolicy.org)

## NEVADA



In April, the **Nevada Policy Research Institute** released a line-by-line alternative state budget that would have allowed Nevada to fund priorities and avoid the need for tax increases or federal stimulus funds. The Freedom Budget earned numerous op-eds, news articles and radio interviews and was presented to every state lawmaker. Unfortunately, Nevada passed a large tax increase instead. NPRI has hired Alexis K. Burke as its development and special events coordinator. Burke previously was editor of Nevada Business Magazine. On Sept. 23, Karl Rove will keynote NPRI's 18th Anniversary Celebration. Visit NPRI's blog, [writeonnevada.com](http://writeonnevada.com), and follow NPRI on Twitter, [@NevadaPolicyRI](https://twitter.com/NevadaPolicyRI). [npri.org](http://npri.org)



Alexis K. Burke

## NEW MEXICO



Jim Scarantino, the **Rio Grande Foundation's** investigative journalist, continues to rattle cages in Santa Fe. In one recent story, he drew attention to the State Investment Council's failures in two of its primary missions: creating jobs for New Mexicans and generating a reasonable return on its investments. In another story, Scarantino detailed how

an investment in Earthstone International was politically-motivated by Gov. Bill Richardson, who controls the Council, thus dooming the “investment” to failure. In early June, the Foundation hosted John Charles from Oregon’s Cascade Policy Institute to discuss the flaws inherent in Portland’s transit system and the state’s government-managed land use model. Later in June, the RGF hosted a lecture by Victor Bruno, a prominent New Mexico real estate broker and Foundation board member, on the intersection of public policy and commercial real estate in the Albuquerque area. [riograndefoundation.org](http://riograndefoundation.org)

## NEW YORK



A Public Payroll Watch report released in June by the **Empire Center for New York State Policy** exposed nearly 100 public pension sweeteners working their way through the New York State Legislature. Despite a \$45 billion drop in the state pension fund and a crushing recession, state legislators weren’t deterred from introducing dozens of bills designed to enhance retirement benefits for state and local government employees. The most expensive measure would have altered the formula used to calculate automatic cost of living increases for older retirees by removing a 50% cap on inflationary increases. The first year cost of that sweetener was a cool \$760 million. SeeThroughNY.net, the Center’s transparency website, netted its 1 millionth unique visitor in June. With nearly five million pages of data downloaded in less than a year, SeeThroughNY has become a valuable tool for New Yorkers statewide. [empirecenter.org](http://empirecenter.org)

## NORTH CAROLINA



Years of work from the **John Locke Foundation’s** Carolina Journal newspaper staff bore fruit in recent months, as federal investigators started issuing subpoenas in connection with their inquiries into former North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley. The investigation paralleled CJ coverage of Easley’s questionable land deals, the governor’s taxpayer-funded and private air travel, and the arrangement that led to a six-figure public university job for Easley’s wife. Meanwhile, JLF’s N.C. History Project continued to highlight the state constitution with a June 8 public forum on property rights inside the historic State Capitol. Recent JLF research has targeted a proposed statewide smoking ban, eminent domain abuse, the recent glut of non-classroom staff in North Carolina’s public schools, state budget bloat and local governments’ misguided entry into the fiber-optic cable business. [johnlocke.org](http://johnlocke.org)



**John William Pope Civitas** policy director Brian Balfour recently issued a “Job-Killing Tax Increase” fact sheet that was used during the N.C. House of Representatives tax and budget debate. A proposed income tax hike would raise the state’s highest marginal tax rate to 8.5 percent, tying it for the seventh highest in the nation – not to mention put North Carolina’s top marginal rate head and shoulders above others in the Southeast. Civitas continued its monthly polling and senior legislative analyst Chris Hayes explained how Gov. Bev Perdue’s decline in popularity was tied to



*Buckeye Institute summer interns, from left: Scott McClure, Charles Couger, Greg Kimball and Nathan Dronen.*

the loss of support from her base. Civitas’ 4th Annual Conservative Leadership Conference is Sept. 11-12 in Raleigh, featuring national speakers, investigative journalism and grassroots training, and panels of interest to North Carolina conservatives. [nccivitas.org](http://nccivitas.org)

## NORTH DAKOTA



The **North Dakota Policy Council** recently held its 2nd Annual Free Market Forum. Guest speakers included Thomas Woods of the Mises Institute and best-selling author of *The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History*; Robert Murphy of the Institute for Energy Research; and Michael LaFaive of the Mackinac Center. A huge success with more than 60 freedom-lovers in attendance, the forum included lectures and discussions on a rationally-based energy policy, free-market economics and the real government policy failures responsible for causing and prolonging the Great Depression. View Forum videos at [policynd.org](http://policynd.org).

## OHIO



The **Buckeye Institute’s** 1851 Center for Constitutional Law recently helped defeat a provision in HB3

that would have allowed trial court judges to rewrite interest rates and principal due on mortgage contracts. Buckeye also stopped the City of Cincinnati from blocking petitioners who were gathering signatures to defeat a \$200 million, government-run trolley system. Finally, along with the Tax Foundation, Buckeye filed an amicus brief in the Ohio Supreme Court to stop the application of the CAT tax to food. The Institute’s Liberty in Learning Center remains active in the education policy debate. The Senate Education Committee chairman asked Buckeye to provide information about its plan for child-centered funding, as he and several House members view child-centered funding as a viable and less-costly plan to the Governor’s albatross. Finally, Buckeye welcomed four summer interns into its Ohio Future Leaders Internship Program. [buckeyeinstitute.org](http://buckeyeinstitute.org)

## OKLAHOMA



In April, **Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs** vice president Brandon Dutcher spoke at one of the many Tea Parties hosted around the state. OCA took advantage and distributed its “No Socialism Permitted” bumper stickers at the rallies. In June, OCA teamed up with the Friedman Foundation to release a study



urging state legislators to give more choices to parents of special-needs students. Also in June, former state auditor Tom Daxon, author of the OCPA study “Enhanced Financial Reporting for State Government: Comparing Cost to Performance,” discussed issues surrounding the so-called stimulus package on local news stations. [ocpathink.org](http://ocpathink.org)

## OREGON



**Cascade Policy Institute’s** Government Transparency Website bill won bipartisan support in the Legislature. The Institute also played critical roles in this year’s state



Karla Kay Edwards

legislative session passing a home moving-industry deregulation bill, and stopping a disastrous cap-and-trade bill.

Major events included hosting Cato Institute’s Dan Mitchell, speaking on the economy, and a July 31 Milton Friedman birthday celebration. Cascade also provided speakers for several Tea Party events, and is providing intellectual ammunition to a coalition working to refer two big legislative tax increases to the voters, who will hopefully reject them in January. Cascade welcomed Karla Kay Edwards as its new rural policy analyst. She’ll focus on natural resource and economic development issues in rural Oregon, as well as outreach and advocacy in the state capitol. [cascadepolicy.org](http://cascadepolicy.org)

## PENNSYLVANIA

The **Allegheny Institute’s** updated, more interactive, user-friendly, research-consolidating website has seen its daily hit rate



CF president Matt Brouillette next to Gov. Rendell’s bus, Commonwealth One, between dueling press conferences he and the governor held on the state budget.

double. The Institute’s work on city-county mergers has been very influential in changing the debate from one of combining Pittsburgh and Allegheny County governments to one of merging duplicative services. Institute president Jake Haulk participated in a merger roundtable sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh’s Institute of Politics, which also included members of city and county government.

[alleghenyinstitute.org](http://alleghenyinstitute.org)



The **Commonwealth Foundation** was on the front line of Pennsylvania’s budget battle as Gov. Edward Rendell embarked on a bus tour across the state in June to mislead Pennsylvanians into support of a tax hike (with falsehoods about education funding in the GOP-led Senate’s budget proposal). Much to Rendell’s chagrin, CF president Matt Brouillette tailed him and got

the press in every media market to report the other side. Shortly thereafter, CF announced winners of the Please, No More Taxes! video contest, and presented the Please, No More Taxes! petitions, bearing thousands of signatures, to Rendell and legislators. In other news, CF held policy forums on natural gas extraction and prevailing wage laws, each of which featured a state senator. CF also welcomed two new Koch Associates and three interns to its staff. In August, CF will launch a redesigned website. [commonwealthfoundation.org](http://commonwealthfoundation.org)

## RHODE ISLAND



**Ocean State Policy Research Institute** welcomes two new scholars who bring experience from the national stage. Steve



Steve Moses



Ken Malloy

Moses has been named health care policy fellow. Moses influenced the content and passage of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which discouraged Medicaid planning abuses and unleashed the LTC Partnership programs. He is credited with having “forged the framework” for the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, which closed many Medicaid eligibility loopholes. Ken Malloy has been named energy policy fellow. Malloy was the U.S. Department of Energy’s lead career official on policies relating to competition, regulatory reform, and industry restructuring over three Administrations (1987 to 1996) and was deputy executive director and general counsel of the Illinois Commerce Commission, director and assistant director of the predecessor of FERC’s Office of Economic Policy, and staff attorney in FERC’s Office of General Counsel. [oceanstatepolicy.org](http://oceanstatepolicy.org)

## SOUTH CAROLINA



The **South Carolina Policy Council** held a joint press conference June 24 alongside more than a dozen elected officials from the Upstate region to call on municipal governments to voluntarily place government spending records online. A 2008 Policy Council study found that agencies demanded thousands of dollars in fees prior to complying with Freedom of Information Act requests. That financial hurdle effectively bars citizens from obtaining information they are legally entitled to receive. Since the study’s release, six South Carolina municipalities have placed spending online and three other

local governments have committed to doing so. Greenville County Councilman Willis Meadows said, after speaking with officials in transparent counties, he is convinced placing records online saves time and money. As of July 1, three mayors of Upstate cities publicly opposed calls to place records online.

[scpolicycouncil.org](http://scpolicycouncil.org)

## TENNESSEE



As the Tennessee General Assembly scurried to trim the state budget, the **Tennessee Center for Policy Research** released its fourth annual Tennessee Pork Report, giving lawmakers a template for reducing wasteful spending. The Pork Report, published in conjunction with Citi-



TCPR released its 2009 Pork Report

zens Against Government Waste, exposed nearly 100 examples of waste, fraud and abuse of tax dollars at a cost of more than \$500 million to taxpayers. To celebrate the release of the Pork Report and generate greater awareness of the problem of government waste in Tennessee, TCPR launched a Pork Tour. The tour visited six cities across the state, offering more than 1,000 attendees copies of the Pork Report, a free pork BBQ lunch from whole roasted pigs and the opportunity to learn how they can help reduce wasteful government spending.

[tennesseepolicy.org](http://tennesseepolicy.org)

## TEXAS

Based on warnings by the state comptroller, the economic downturn may result in the second Texas budget crisis this decade. In preparation for a possible budget fight in the 2011 legislative session, the **Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute** will launch two task forces to propose fiscal policies that limit government spending to avoid tax increases and prevent withdrawals from the economic stabilization fund. Previous efforts by TCCRI in 2002-03 helped the Legislature successfully eliminate a \$10 billion deficit without raising taxes. In September, TCCRI will convene a State Budget Task Force and a Government Reform Task Force to propose program reductions and cost savings, as well as reform of the civil service that has been mired in controversy. [txccri.org](http://txccri.org)



Relevant, comprehensive research paired with significant legislative engagement resulted in legislative victories for the **Texas Public Policy Foundation**. These included a tax cut that removed 40,000 small businesses from the state's margins tax, and a 2010-11 state budget that increased less than population growth plus inflation, while state general revenue spending actually declined and the \$9 billion in the Economic Stabilization Fund was not tapped. Other positives for Texas coming out of the session were: a rejection of \$555 million in federal stimulus funds that would have led to permanent increases in unemployment taxes paid by Texas businesses; denial of "local option" transportation tax legislation that could have cost



TPPF's Center for Fiscal Policy director The Hon. Talmadge Heflin speaks at Gov. Rick Perry's bill signing for the small-business tax cut.

Texas motorists as much as \$21 billion during the next decade; expansion of charter schools and the nation's largest teacher merit pay program; eminent domain reform; and defeat of all global warming regulatory bills. [texaspolicy.org](http://texaspolicy.org)

## UTAH



The belief among many Utahns is that government-managed health care is a big step in the wrong direction. So, if government health care is not the answer, what's right for Utah? To address this question, U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch, State Rep. Brad Daw and **Sutherland Institute** president Paul Mero will be the featured speakers at the Aug. 26 session of the Utah Prosperity Forum. The presenters will examine free-market approaches to Utah's health-care needs, including health savings accounts and problems with guaranteed issue. Sen. Hatch will focus on the national debate, while Rep. Daw and Mero will address state and local dimensions. The Forum is a collaborative project of the Salt

Lake Chamber of Commerce and Sutherland Institute, developed to facilitate constructive and civil dialogue about complex and sometimes controversial issues pertaining to Utah's economy. [sutherlandinstitute.org](http://sutherlandinstitute.org)

## VERMONT



Ethan Allen Institute

Making its appearance in May was a dazzling new four-color **Ethan Allen Institute** brochure, captioned "Is Vermont on the Right Track... for prosperity, responsibility and liberty." (Apparently not.) The Vermont legislature ended its 2009 session by overriding – by one House vote – a first-time-in-the-state's history gubernatorial veto of the FY 2010 budget bill. The Legislature's version, which became law, points to a \$207 million deficit over the next two fiscal years, and raises estate, tobacco, alcohol, video and capital gains taxes. The Institute released an anti-business scorecard chronicling the Legislature's performance. EAI also announced its third annual Milton Friedman Day dinner in Barre on July 31, on the theme

of “Strengthening Faith Based Education.” The Board has selected EAI’s new president and CEO, who’ll be formally announced in August. [ethanallen.org](http://ethanallen.org)

## VIRGINIA

The **Thomas Jefferson Institute** expanded its emphasis on energy independence with a cap-and-trade conference that attracted more than 50 business leaders and garnered key media news stories. The Virginia Science Museum sought TJI’s help in the design of its new Climate Change exhibit – ensuring that free-market facts will be available to the public, especially the schoolchildren for whom the museum is a frequent field trip. Front-page coverage in the capitol city newspaper resulted from the Institute’s Annual Economic Forecast, released at the Virginia Chamber of Commerce’s offices – also with an emphasis on the economic effects of command and control climate change “solutions.” TJI’s activities are trumpeted in its popular e-zine, *Bacon’s Rebellion* – now reaching nearly 14,000 subscribers. The Institute’s School Board Training Program attracted 30 prospective school board candidates.

[thomasjeffersoninst.org](http://thomasjeffersoninst.org)



**Virginia Institute for Public Policy** senior fellow Adam Schaeffer’s new study, “Public Education Tax Credits in Virginia: The Way Forward on School Choice,” could help shape the gubernatorial contest, as both the Republican and Democratic candidates have made education reform central to their campaigns. The Institute welcomed investigative reporter Paige Winfield, a graduate of Wheaton College who worked

as a reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Both the Institute and its 501(c)(4) affiliate, **Tertium Quids**, are mobilizing support against the cap and trade and health care measures pending in Congress. Through blog, op-eds, policy studies and the radio show, the free-market case for reform is being taken to all corners of the commonwealth.

[virginiainstitute.org](http://virginiainstitute.org)

## WASHINGTON



Early ticket sales are strong for the **Evergreen Freedom Foundation’s** Take the Field, its Sept. 26 event at Safeco Field in Seattle featuring Glenn Beck. EFF takes the mystery out of paying state and local taxes with [www.TaxSleuth.com](http://www.TaxSleuth.com), where Washington state taxpayers can see all of their tax rates in one place. The state claimed a one-



Glenn Beck wants you to attend the EFF Sept. 26 event at Safeco Field.

stop-convenience like this couldn’t be done for less than millions of dollars and dozens of employees. Par for the course, EFF beat the state to the punch spending way less and using a handful of staff to accomplish the task. In July, EFF will launch *Schooled* by Dr. Ben, a weekly Web video series featuring politically-incorrect Dr.

Ben Chavis, the take-no-prisoners former principle of the award-winning, innovative American Indian Public Charter School of Oakland, Calif. Chavis will attack the myths and sacred cows of public education. [effwa.org](http://effwa.org)

## WYOMING

June 29 was eagerly awaited as the date the U.S. Supreme Court would rule on *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, a free speech case in which **Wyoming Liberty Group** sponsored a strongly-worded amicus brief. Instead, the Court, in an unorthodox decision, scheduled a special hearing for Sept. 9. The Justices request further briefs to be submitted by July 31, specifically addressing *Austin v. Michigan State Chamber of Commerce*, which was decided in 1990. The hope is that the Court, upon looking more thoroughly into *Citizens’ United*, will rein in the FEC. Meanwhile back home, as the only non-governmental group to attend all scheduled legislative interim committee meetings, WLG has become savvy to agendas for the upcoming 20-day January 2010 Session. [wyliberty.org](http://wyliberty.org)

## NATIONAL



**Accuracy in Media** presented M. Stanton Evans and Karl S. Denninger with Reed Irvine Accuracy in Media Awards in a ceremony at this year’s Conservative Political Action Conference. Evans, the recipient of the award for investigative journalism, recently authored *Blacklisted by History*, the authoritative book on Senator Joe McCarthy. He had the crowd rolling with laughter, at one



At the 2009 Reed Irvine AIM Awards, from left: author M. Stanton Evans, AIM chairman Don Irvine and capital markets expert Karl Denninger

point saying that a “conservative journalist” is almost as much of an oxymoron as a “Senate Ethics Committee.” Denninger, who received the Grassroots Journalism award for his reporting at Market-Ticker.org, a website he founded, delivered powerful remarks condemning the national media for obscuring the truth about the financial crisis. The awards are named in honor of Reed Irvine, who founded Accuracy in Media in 1969 and was America’s first media watchdog. [aim.org](http://aim.org)

The **American Council of Trustees and Alumni** recently launched a national campaign to reinvigorate open and diverse intellectual discourse on campus in and out of the classroom. Protecting the Free Exchange of Ideas highlights best practices from 40 institutions that are part of a growing movement to make sure students are exposed to a wide range of subject areas and viewpoints. It was featured in *USA Today* and is being sent to the individual board members of nearly 600 institutions responsible for the education of more than six million students. With employers consistently saying critical thinking is at the top of the list of skills they prize, ACTA’s campaign aims to help universities challenge students and sharpen their ability to think for themselves.

[goacta.org](http://goacta.org)





The AFP Hot Air Tour stops in Little Rock, Arkansas.

What will the Obama administration's plans for High Speed Rail cost you? The **American Dream Coalition** has the answer in a new report. The American Dream Coalition is the go-to source for metropolitan issues like housing and transportation policy, property rights and eminent domain abuse. It exposes the central planning doctrine called Smart Growth that is gaining ground all across the country. ADC promotes freedom, mobility and affordable homeownership and is fighting wasteful and ineffective government policies in metropolitan areas. ADC's 2010 annual conference will be held in Orlando, Fla. [americandreamcoalition.org](http://americandreamcoalition.org)

**Americans for Prosperity** is busy working to stop the largest energy tax in our nation's history, cap-and-trade, and a life- and liberty-threatening government takeover of health care. With the launch of AFP's Hot Air Balloon Tour earlier this summer, folks across the country have submitted letters to their senators urging them to vote no on the Waxman-Markey bill. More than 200 lawmakers have already

signed AFP's No Climate Tax Pledge, refusing to sign any bill that results in an energy tax for the American people. AFP welcomed Amy Menefee as communications director, spearheading health care efforts including Patients First, advocating real reform with patients and doctors making decisions, not Washington bureaucrats. Rallies in multiple states drove citizens to sign a petition rejecting legislation that would delay and even deny patient care. Sign it at [www.joinpatientsfirst.com](http://www.joinpatientsfirst.com). [americansforprosperity.org](http://americansforprosperity.org)

On June 24 **Americans for Tax Reform** held a Capitol Hill briefing on health care reform. At the briefing S.C. Sen. Jim DeMint introduced his Health Care Freedom Act. ATR supports the Healthcare Freedom Act, which lowers health care costs, provides more choices and doesn't raise taxes. Congressman Tom Price (R-GA), Dr. Doug Holtz-Eakin and other health care experts also participated in the event. ATR has launched a new website to highlight and combat threats to e-commerce. StopETaxes.com fights efforts to tax digital and real goods purchased online. In addition to raising taxes on consumers, efforts by states to tax online purchases impede interstate commerce; put states at a competitive disadvantage with other states; encourage online black-markets and threaten property rights; and hamper a growing free-market. [atr.org](http://atr.org)

**Beacon Hill Institute** executive director David G. Tuerck addressed a Worcester Tea Party on June 20. BHI released a 19-state analysis of the Waxman-Markey climate change bill. The Institute noted, the so-called market-based trading



From left, Frank Conte, Beacon Hill Institute; Ted Tripp, North Andover Taxpayers Association; SPN / IHS Koch Summer Fellows Andrew Dabrowski and Alex Weckenman; and Chip Faulkner, Citizens for Limited Taxation

system would serve as an excise tax on production. If the U.S. were to cut emissions alone, with no cutbacks by other countries, it would bear the full cost of abatement while reaping few benefits. Overall Waxman-Markey would cost the U.S. \$154 billion by 2020 and \$1.318 trillion by 2050. BHI re-entered the debate over the detrimental effects of tax increases in Pennsylvania with a new report, "STAMPing Out the Nonsense from Our Critics." The battle against junk economics moved to the domain of green jobs with the Institute puncturing the myth that these prospective "new" jobs are a benefit to the U.S. economy. Instead they're a considerable cost. [beaconhill.org](http://beaconhill.org)



**Citizens in Charge Foundation** is a national transpartisan voter rights group dedicated to protecting and expanding the ballot initiative and referendum process. The objective is to empower grassroots activist leaders who care about making elected officials responsive to citizens, and who wish to be the voice of citizens in their state. Good government starts with the people. Want to see citizens in charge of their government and help protect our First Amendment rights to initiative and referendum? Then declare your independence by joining the ever-growing

Citizens in Charge team across the country. Whether you apply to become a citizen state coordinator or subscribe to Common Sense with Paul Jacob, it is time to start putting citizens back in charge of your state. [citizensincharge.org](http://citizensincharge.org)

In June, the Cato Institute hosted a one-day conference on the summer's hottest topic, health care reform, which brought together experts from a wide range of disciplines to discuss how this crucial area of public policy can be improved. A special "emergency" state health policy summit for state-based health policy analysts will be held Aug. 7-8 in Washington, D.C. To arrange Michael Tanner or Michael Cannon as a speaker on this topic, contact Diane Morris, [dmorris@cato.org](mailto:dmorris@cato.org). In celebration of Constitution Day, Sept. 17, Cato will conduct a conference on "The Supreme Court: Past and Prologue – A Look at 2008 and October 2009 Terms." Save the date: Cato's biennial dinner for the Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty will be held May 13, 2010. [cato.org](http://cato.org)

The **Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute** kicked off summer with its annual Conservative Leadership Seminar on Capitol Hill. Each year at this seminar the Institute presents its Conservative Leadership Award to one woman who has



Liz Cheney addresses CBLPI's 2009 Conservative Leadership Seminar.

shown exceptional leadership and commitment to promoting conservative values. This year's award winner, Liz Cheney, is the Left's worst nightmare: a smart, articulate, conservative woman unafraid to stand up to the Obama Administration on critical issues. On Aug. 10 in Washington, D.C. the Institute will present Phyllis Schlafly with a Clare Boothe Luce Lifetime Achievement Award. If you know a student interested in attending this luncheon, please visit [www.cbllpi.org](http://www.cbllpi.org) for registration information.

The **Competitive Enterprise Institute** celebrated its 25th anniversary in June with its annual dinner. BB&T CEO John Allison gave the keynote address about the banking crisis and the value of capitalism. In May, policy vice president Wayne Crews published his annual snapshot of the regulatory burden on American taxpayers, "Ten Thousand Commandments." Follow updates @ twitter .com/10KC. Bureaucrash has a new crasher-in-chief, Lee Doren, who replaces Pete Eyre, who has moved on to a new project. A recent law school grad, Doren also started the popular YouTube channel HowTheWorldWorks. Get to know Doren and other activists on Bureaucrash Social: social.bureaucrash.com. Watch CEI's 1984 video starring Al Gore (cei.org/1984). CEI is accepting applications for the next Warren T. Brookes fellowship, which begins in the fall. Journalists with a free-market perspective may apply by contacting [chall@cei.org](mailto:chall@cei.org). [cei.org](http://cei.org)

The race for knowledge – and the prosperity that comes with it – does not end at the U.S. borders. America

must close the achievement gap. Join Jeb Bush and the **Foundation for Excellence in Education** for the second annual Excellence in Action, a powerful national summit on education reform, Oct. 8-9 in Washington, D.C. Reform-minded local, state and federal policymakers will leave Excellence in Action armed with the tools and knowledge needed to dramatically alter the future of education in America. This uncommon conference annually serves as a catalyst for energizing and accelerating the reform movement across the nation. Be there or be left behind. [excelined.org](http://excelined.org)



The **Fraser Institute** recently released its annual Global Petroleum Survey, ranking jurisdictions around the world on policies that encourage oil and gas exploration and development. This year's survey shows that nine of the top 10 jurisdictions are in the U.S. Find out where your state ranks at [www.fraseramerica.org](http://www.fraseramerica.org). The Institute also has launched a number of education projects this summer, including the first in a series of report cards on schools in the state of Washington, [www.washington.compareschoolrankings.org](http://www.washington.compareschoolrankings.org), and an interactive website dedicated to profiling innovative "school chains" from around the world, [schoolchains.org](http://schoolchains.org). Fraser researchers also published cogent commentaries this summer on government expansion, health care and energy in the Washington Post, Detroit News and Sacramento Bee. Stay abreast by signing up for our newsletter at [insight@fraserinstitute.org](mailto:insight@fraserinstitute.org).

On July 2, **FreedomWorks** joined with other national grassroots organizations including Tea Party Patriots, the 9/12 Project and ResistNet to demonstrate against the government takeover of health care at congressional district offices around Florida. The groups first teamed up in April to take part in Tax Day Tea Parties and have continued their cooperation. Part of an ongoing nation-wide campaign against government-run health care, the efforts of the Florida protestors were bolstered by strategic office visits and phone calls around the country to targeted legislators, which are continuing through the summer. With hundreds more Tea Parties held July 4, the movement is making itself hard to ignore. Thousands are expected to descend on Washington, D.C., Sept. 12 for a national taxpayer march, just as many of today's hottest political issues will be coming to a head in Congress. Visit [912dc.com](http://912dc.com) for more information. [freedomworks.org](http://freedomworks.org)

The latest research report from the **Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice** has found that public schools do not provide the best working environment for teachers. Private school teachers are much more satisfied with their jobs; have much more control over what they do in their classrooms and much more influence over important school policies; are better empowered to keep order in the classroom; enjoy more support from administrators and peers; suffer less burnout; and are safer than their public school counterparts. The findings indicated private school teachers are much more likely to say they will continue teaching as long as

they are able (62 percent v. 44), and that public school teachers are much more likely to say they'll leave teaching as soon as they are eligible for retirement (33 percent v. 12). The report, Free to Teach, is at [www.friedmanfoundation.org](http://www.friedmanfoundation.org).

"Busy" is an understatement for 413 students who traveled to Washington to live, learn and intern through one of five summer institutes sponsored by **The Fund for American Studies**. On top of 30-hour workweeks and courses at Georgetown University, students spent eight weeks juggling site briefings at the State Department, World Bank and U.S. Capitol. Law students enrolled



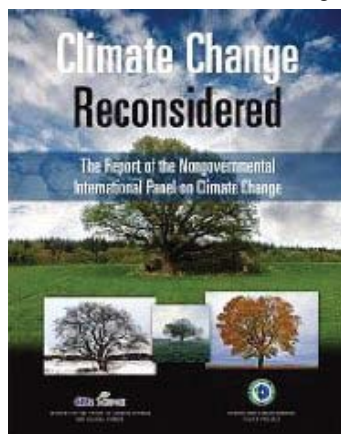
*Students attending the Institute on Business and Government Affairs, sponsored by TFAS, meet U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl during a June award dinner.*

in the Legal Studies Institute visited the Supreme Court for an exclusive session with Justice Antonin Scalia, and participants in the Institute on Business and Government Affairs attended a dinner honoring Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Pat Roberts also delivered remarks. Aspiring journalists attending the Institute on Political Journalism participated in a press conference at the National Press Club where TFAS awarded prizes amounting to \$25,000 to outstanding journalists. [tfas.org](http://tfas.org)

Congress is writing health reform legislation that contains many of the changes implemented by

Massachusetts when it passed its reform law in 2006, but the state's experience so far shows that Washington, D.C., should proceed with great caution. Implementation of the Bay State's reform plan continues to pose many challenges. The **Galen Institute** has produced a major new paper, "Massachusetts' Health Reform Plan: Miracle or Muddle?" that details many of these challenges, including rising costs, shortages of doctors, increased use of hospital emergency rooms and burdensome mandates on employers and individuals. More Massachusetts residents are insured, but three out of five are receiving taxpayer-subsidized policies. Before copying this experiment nationwide, lawmakers should heed the problems facing this laboratory of democracy. [galen.org](http://galen.org)

On June 2 **The Heartland Institute** published "Climate Change Reconsidered," the 2009 Report of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, to coincide with the Third International Conference on Climate Change held in Washington, D.C. Co-authors S. Fred Singer, Ph.D., and Craig Idso, Ph.D., and 35 contributors and reviewers present an authoritative and detailed rebuttal of the findings



of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on which the Obama administration and many in Congress rely for their regulatory proposals. The authors cite thousands of peer-reviewed research papers and books that were ignored by the IPCC, plus additional research that became available after the IPCC's deadline. The 880-page book is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$154. For more information, or to download the book in PDF format, visit [nipccreport.org](http://nipccreport.org). [heartland.org](http://heartland.org)

The **Heritage Foundation** continues to produce health care reform research, and launched [www.fixhealthcarepolicy.com](http://www.fixhealthcarepolicy.com) to impact the debate. The spring issue of The Insider magazine highlights the negative consequences of government-run health care with articles from Sally Pipes, Peter J. Pitts and Helen Evans. Download [insideronline.org](http://insideronline.org). Heritage's Center for Data Analysis produced a study of the Waxman-Markey energy tax legislation to show the economic harm by Congressional District, and Heritage collected 29,989 comments against EPA's economy crippling proposal to regulate CO2 at [www.StopEPAAgain.com](http://www.StopEPAAgain.com). Heritage has scheduled more than 200 screenings in 41 states of its pro-missile defense documentary, 33 Minutes. Visit [33Minutes.com](http://33Minutes.com) and sign up to host a screening. [heritage.org](http://heritage.org)



When the Louisiana House passed a bill potentially making the state the first in the nation to tax the Internet, **Institute for Policy Innovation's** Bartlett Cleland was interviewed by numerous television and radio outlets, warning

the measure would be a \$2 million tax hike for Louisianans. IPI president Tom Giovanetti testified before the state's Senate Commerce Committee, and the legislation was unanimously rejected during the hearing. In the national discussion on broadband expansion, IPI advocated consideration of broadband enterprise zones in comments to the FCC. Creation of these zones would allow government to leverage existing private infrastructure, and further incentivize broadband deployment in a competitive, market-friendly manner to bring high speed Internet to unserved areas and ensure as many Americans as possible gain broadband access. [ipi.org](http://ipi.org)

The **Independent Institute** continues to build upon its track record of award-winning publications and has recently added three brand new awards to its repertoire. Twilight War, by research fellow Mike Moore, which examines the crucial need for



Good Money  
by George  
Selgin

peaceful space development, has won both the Benjamin Franklin Award for Political and Current Events from the Independent Publishers Association and the Silver Medal IPPY Award in Science from Independent Publishing Magazine. The second winning book, Good Money, especially timely now with the deepening economic recession, describes how free-market money and banking can resolve financial crises. Good Money, by research fellow and

economist George Selgin, won a Bronze Medal in the IPPY category of finance / investment / economics. [independent.org](http://independent.org)

At the beginning of 2009, The Center of the American Experiment spun off **Intellectual Takeout**. As a standalone 501(c)3 institution, IT's mission is to develop and support an online community of students by providing them with the intellectual



One of IT's youngest supporters turned out at the Tax Day Tea Party in St. Paul, Minnesota.

groundwork necessary to preserve and promote a free society built on the principles of individual liberty, limited government and free market economics. IT's aim is to kick off the fall semester with an aggressive viral and guerrilla marketing campaign. Thus, 25 student researchers from around the nation are working hard at building content for the site, featuring the work of many SPN institutions. If you think you have material that would be a good fit with our mission, let IT know. Intellectual Takeout would love to partner with your group to get its ideas to young people. [intellectualtakeout.org](http://intellectualtakeout.org)

For the last two weeks of June, the **Jesse Helms Center** hosted the Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge, an intensive summer program for high school students, on the campus of Wingate University, just outside Charlotte,



N.C. More than 200 students from 11 states and eight countries attended FELC, which focuses on promoting an understanding of free enterprise through experiential learning, with students starting for-profit businesses that provide products or services to the campus community. Lectures, as well as essay, speech and



FELC student Riziki Omonde delivers a speech on capitalism during a contest among program members.

debate contests, promoted the cause of freedom. Participating students returned home with an appreciation of their free enterprise opportunities and as determined defenders of our capitalist heritage. [jessehelscenter.org](http://jessehelscenter.org)

In June 2009, **Judicial Watch** released a special report on Judge Sonia Sotomayor's connection to the leftist Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and held an education panel to inform the public of its findings. In May 2009, Judicial Watch forced the Obama administration to release documents about the Oct. 13, 2008, Treasury Department meeting indicating that former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson told bank CEO's they must allow the government to take equity stakes in their institutions. In October 2008, a California appellate court ruled in a Judicial Watch taxpayer lawsuit that the San Francisco Police Department must comply with a state law requiring police

officers to notify federal authorities when they arrest a person for various narcotics offenses whom they suspect to be an alien, legal or illegal. [judicialwatch.org](http://judicialwatch.org)

## JUST FACTS

**Just Facts**, a nonprofit institute and new SPN associate member, is dedicated to researching, documenting and publishing verifiable facts on the critical public policy issues of our time. Building on a base of 500,000 unique website visitors in 2008, Just Facts has aggressive plans to cover more issues and pioneer a new initiative to provide custom research services for non-profit organizations, corporations and private individuals. This research includes policy facts and data analysis, scientific and technical research, Freedom of Information Act requests and investigative journalism. [justfacts.com](http://justfacts.com)

In June and July, David Gratz, M.D., made multiple trips from Canada to Washington, D.C., to provide testimony on Capitol Hill as an expert witness on the perils of a government-run health care system. Gratz and Paul Howard also met privately with Congressional leaders, and hosted a Hill briefing and media dinner to educate policymakers, the media and public about why ObamaCare is the wrong prescription for U.S. health care. On July 7, the **Manhattan Institute** hosted a conference devoted to a special issue of *City Journal*, "New York's Tomorrow," which lays out dozens of policy prescriptions that would make New York's tomorrow brighter. Read the entire issue at [\[.org\]\(http://.org\). \*City Journal\* contributing editor and French economist Guy Sorman released a new book in July, \*Economics Does Not Lie: A Defense of the Free Market in a Time of Crisis\* \(Encounter Books\). \[manhattan-institute.org\]\(http://manhattan-institute.org\)](http://www.city-journal</a></p>
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The **Mercatus Center at George Mason University** recently launched a new podcast focused on state issues, hosted by the Center's economic education director Jim Musser. The *State and Local Policy Podcast* is a resource for policymakers, the media and others with an interest in state issues and innovative solutions to the

issues facing all states. Each week features new conversations with policy scholars, legislators and others. Bridging the gap between policy theory and policymaking is the objective, as well as providing state policymakers with scholarly analysis on the potential outcomes of legislative and regulatory reforms. This podcast is available in RSS and on iTunes. Also, check out new podcasts on: transparency, disaster preparedness, budget best practices and lessons to be learned from the New Zealand Reforms in the 1990s. [mercatus.org](http://mercatus.org)



"Reading about it is one thing. Seeing it makes you want to yell at the screen." Critics adore *The Cartel*, a new **Moving Picture Institute** documentary about how America's public schools waste billions each year while children learn less and less. A compelling case for school choice, *The Cartel*

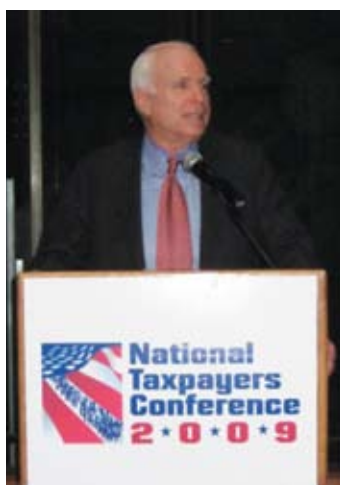
won the Audience Award at the Hoboken International Film Festival, and has screened at the Jersey Shore Film Festival and Philadelphia International Film Festival. Featuring interviews with major school choice advocates alongside the moving stories of parents, children and teachers, *The Cartel* can do for education reform what no op-ed or white paper can. To bring the film to your area, please contact [rob@thempi.org](mailto:rob@thempi.org). [thempi.org](http://thempi.org)



Investor T. Boone Pickens told a **National Center for Policy Analysis** Living Legend Series audience that America's energy situation must be addressed, especially because our market-based economy must compete with state-owned companies, like China's. Stephen Moore of *The Wall Street Journal* told an exclusive NCPA gathering in March that current levels of federal spending will prolong the current financial crisis and will generate a massive amount of debt for future generations of Americans. Phil Gramm told an NCPA audience that President Obama currently has the national "microphone" and the media will only go so far in criticizing his programs. The second annual I Debate leadership camp, cosponsored by the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute, Oklahoma Christian University and the NCPA, will be held July 12-17 at OCU. [ncpa.org](http://ncpa.org)

The **National Taxpayers Union and Foundation** recently completed its biennial National Taxpayers Conference, a gathering of taxpayer activists from around the country. The 2009 conference featured speakers such as U.S.

Sen. John McCain, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, John Stossel, WSJ's Stephen Moore, and a host of policymakers, think tank leaders and citizen activists. NTU welcomes Jordan Forbes as its new federal government affairs manager, who is responsible for lobbying the U.S. House and Senate, conducting policy research and analysis, assisting in taxpayer education efforts, and formulating reports and opinion pieces. Forbes previously worked as a legislative assistant to former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis and, most recently, as an analyst for a political consulting firm.



U.S. Sen. John McCain addresses attendees at the opening night reception of the 2009 National Taxpayers Conference.

Join NTU's grassroots mobile membership by texting "FIGHT" to 67292. Follow NTU on Twitter, (@ntu). [ntu.org](http://ntu.org)

On May 5, the **Pope Center for Higher Education** co-hosted a lecture with the Manhattan Institute, "Threats to Academic Freedom: Do Campuses and Courts Care?" Donald Downs, professor of political science, law, and journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, spoke.

He is the author of the Pope Center's research paper, "Academic Freedom: What It Is, What It Isn't, and How to Tell the Difference." In the paper, Downs clarifies what is meant by the term "academic freedom" and to whom it applies. On June 25, the Pope Center hosted a roundtable discussion at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., on its latest research paper, "The Revenue-to-Cost Spiral in Higher Education," by Robert E. Martin, professor emeritus at Centre College in Danville, Ky. Martin's research shows that incentives inherent in the nature of higher education cause costs to rise.

[popecenter.org](http://popecenter.org)

**Reason Foundation** recently released a "Taxpayer's Guide to the Stimulus," which breaks down each section of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to explain how the money is being spent and what the stimulus means in layman's terms. The Guide and Reason Foundation's 23rd Annual Privatization Report are both available at [www.reason.org](http://www.reason.org). Reason magazine's latest cover story, "Illegal. Illiberal. Ill-fated," examines how Washington's auto bailout makes a mockery of the rule of law, is fundamentally unfair and is doomed to failure. This fall, Reason.tv goes to Drew Carey's hometown of Cleveland to diagnose and fix the problems facing the "mistake on the lake" and scores of other declining American cities. In a multi-episode series, Reason.tv brings market-driven, freedom-friendly solutions to shoddy public education, runaway municipal spending, "edifice-complex" redevelopment, urban depopulation and more. The original videos will be available at [www.reason.tv](http://www.reason.tv).



As the country is subjected to unprecedented government intervention, the **Sam Adams Alliance** is hard at work Setting Brushfires of Freedom with the use of New Media tools to promote transparency, accountability and free-market solutions. The SAA government transparency wiki-project, Sunshine Review, just celebrated its two-millionth page viewed and is currently conducting transparency evaluations for each school district website in the country. The Sunshine Review community has implemented a new grading system, making it easier to understand and improve the level of openness of state and local government. Recently, the Sam Adams Alliance unveiled a new website and has placed a greater importance on messaging, which includes the educational project Health Rations and You. With government determined to take away health care choice, SAA is gearing up to give free-market advocates the tools to combat this unparalleled intrusion on freedom. [samadamsalliance.org](http://samadamsalliance.org)

The **Tax Foundation** welcomes Kail Padgett as its newest staff economist. Padgett works primarily with the Center for State Fiscal Policy on the State Business Tax Climate Index as well as developing other measures for the economic incidence of particular taxes. Previously, Padgett spent a year at the Charles G. Koch Foundation.



Kail Padgett

Tonya Barr, state relations manager, concludes her two-year tenure at the Tax Foundation in early August to

begin work on her masters in public affairs at Indiana University. (Best wishes, Tonya!) The Tax Foundation has actively followed the state budget debates this summer. Foundation economists have analyzed the trend of so-called "millionaires' taxes" which have already been enacted in California, Hawaii, Maryland, Maine, New Jersey and New York. Similar proposals are pending in Connecticut and Oregon. Tax Foundation experts also recently testified in Rhode Island and New York. [taxfoundation.org](http://taxfoundation.org)

**Young America's Foundation** hosted its 12th annual National High School Leadership Conference. The conference was attended by 120 student activists from 28 states. Participants heard from Congressman Paul Ryan, WSJ's Stephen Moore and Dr. Walter Williams, among others. Meanwhile, the Foundation unveiled its annual survey of commencement speakers, which showed that for the 16th year in a row, liberal speakers dominated graduation exercises. Of the top 100 universities, there were five recognizable conservative speakers, as opposed to the scores of noted leftists, including Barney Frank, Desmond Tutu and Rahm Emanuel. At the Foundation's West Coast facility, the Reagan Ranch Center, the YAF organized The Summit on Radical Islam, an intensive student seminar discussing strategies on defeating terrorism in the age of President Obama. Speakers included Rep. Tom Tancredo, Robert Spencer of "Jihad Watch," and Dr. J. Mike Waller of the Institute of World Politics. [yaf.org](http://yaf.org) SPN

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